Elaine Buchsbaum, *Chair*
Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., *Executive Director*

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 30, 2009
REVISED

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday July 30, 2009, at the Lafayette Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair, who presided.

The meeting notice was published in the *Newark Star Ledger* and the *Trenton Times*. It was posted on the bulletin board at the Mary Roebling Building on State Street in Trenton.

MINUTES – The minutes from the May 28, 2009 meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented – upon motion and seconded. The motion was approved.

NEW MEMBERS – Elaine Buchsbaum
The Council has two new members:

- Robin Sims, Family Member
- Hazeline Pilgrim, Family Member

Everyone welcomed and introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

Lowell Arye, ABCD, commented on the BILL THAT PASSED THE State Legislature and is expected to be signed by the Governor mandating health insureance coverage to children with autism and developemental disabilities. ABCD and other advocates worked to expand the bill to mandate health insurance coverage for early intervention. If successful, the Early Intervention System would have received $10-15 million in additional funds. Unfortunately, we were successful in only allowing health insurance converage of the family cost share portion of early intervention services; other early intervention services are not covered by the bill.

Ann Martinelli, a member of the public, commented that she started a group titled, Advocates for Alternatives, Inc and is asking the Council to support Assemblyman Greenwald's bill to close five institutions in five years.

Most Pressing Transportation Issues Facing People with Developmental Disabilities in 2009 –
Andrea Lubin, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University
The Voorhees Transportation Center was invited to give members a complete picture of some issues as well as potential solutions and strategies to improving the current transportation situation. There was a "mini" panel of experts on hand for questions following their presentation. The Experts are: Steve Fittante, Director of Transportation for Middlesex County; Heather Smith-Bermudez, an experienced ADA Customer Service and Outreach Manager with NJ Transit, and; Barbara Small, Executive Director of NJ TIP (which stands for NJ Travel Independence Program). As background, the Voorhees Center is one of 11 research centers at the Bloustein School for Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers in New Brunswick and the focus is on transportation policy. First up for discussion was the 2005 year plan that was developed for the NJ Division of

Disabiliy Services on the topic of ***Meeting the Employment Transportation Needs of People with Disabilities in New Jersey.*** It was found that one of the most pressing needs relative to enhancing transportation services for people with disabilities continues to be the need for improved coordination among services.

Most Pressing Transportation Issues Facing People with Developmental Disabilities in 2009 – cont'd.
Recommendations for the report were to examine best practices and model programs which assigned potential leadership and/or supporting partner status. Further recommendation was the establishment of an internet based resource offering information on available transportation in NJ. Funding for the internet resource came from DDS to develop the website and it was completed and launched in December 2006 with the address www.njfindaride.org. Although the NJ Find a ride site is fully functioning, we are working to enhance the site's search functions and update the provider database so it can truly be a statewide resource. An exciting development that has occurred during this website enhancement/update process has been the involvement and interest by NJ 211 in taking over management of NJ Find a Ride. For those of you not familiar with NJ 211, it is based on a national model and it is NJ's free, one stop resource for human service information. Folks can either call the 211 exchange for live operator assistance or visit their website for information related to a wide variety of human service needs, which include transportation. The 211 service operates via a call center network and has an extensive database platform. So, while the details have not been confirmed, we are very excited at the real likelihood that NJ Find a Ride will ultimately become a part of the NJ 211 network, where the site will continue to expand with new provider listings and the existing provider entries updated, both of which are critical to the website's ultimate success. The panel was thanked for the information provided. It was suggested to create an ad hoc committee to look further into transportation.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The Executive Committee met at the end of June. There was one mini grant that was reviewed and not approved. There were three 360 grants that are put out by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) so the Executive Director submitted letters of recommendations to those grants. The first part of the Public Awareness campaign has concluded. The second part is the "Just Say Something" forum to gather feedback from the discussions held at the World Wide Café. The Emergency Preparedness project will be included in the State Plan that will be submitted in August. Several members attended the TA Conference in Arlington Virginia on July 27 and 28, 2009. Members were asked to visit some of the project sites that the Council has funded.

Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

June 19th, 2009 Council member, Ellie Byra and Executive Director, Dr. Alison Lozano, attended the 60th anniversary banquet of the Arc of New Jersey. The DD Council was one of several agencies that received awards for collaborating with the Arc. Monday Morning will have a retreat on August 7, 2009. The topic is "a new facilitator's workshop." Currently there are 9 active groups and MM of Middlesex is reforming. Outreach campaign has gone into its 2nd phase. The coffee house discussions finished in April and out of these discussions came the focus of the 2nd phase, which is "Just Say It," Go to the Council website for updates and conversation regarding the campaign. PIP has completed four sessions. This year there are 24 participants, 13 self advocates and 11 parents. Youth Leadership has just finished 2nd eight week session, this one was in Monmouth County. There were 9 participants. The 3rd and 4th sessions are already planned and will begin in Summit and Middlesex Counties in September, 2009. Each group will have approximately 15 participants. The 1st group, Plainsboro, visited the Capitol in June. This group has organized a training to be presented at the Athletes University through Special Olympics. The National conference of State Legislators was held in Philadelphia July 21 through 23. The NJ Council supported the NACDD booth at the conference. Several Council members and staff attended the ADD Technical Assistance workshop in Arlington, VA from July 26 though 28. Those attending were, Chris Miller, Andrew McGeady, Myrta Rosa, Elaine Buchsbaum, Gail Furrer, Dennis Rizzo and Dr. Alison Lozano.

Planning Committee

The committee will be submitting their revised report in August and the Emergency Preparedness Training will be included. Executive Director will begin working on the new 5 year plan which will be presented in March of 2011.

Policy Committee

The committee met and agreed to put together a report for legislators to assist them in identifying issues within the developmental disability community as well as service issues. The committee has also begun discussing restraints and seclusion is schools. Positive behavior training needs to be addressed in the education system. The Education Subcommittee was asked to put together an information pamphlet to inform parents of their right to withhold consent for restrictive practices.

Grants Committee

This year the process was segmented so that nothing gets missed. The following grants were approved:

- **Progressive Center for Independent Living – Emergency Preparedness –Year 3:** PICL is the only CIL in NJ that utilizes people with developmental disabilities to provide education/training on emergency preparedness topics on special needs to first responders was approved for $33,540;
- **Arts Unbound – Job Creation in the Visual Arts – Year 2:** the second year will provide vocational opportunities for those interested in allied parts of the business including the hiring part time of 4 persons was approved for $45,690;
- **NJIT – School Inclusion – Year 3:** the outcome for this year 3 will take the findings from 2 prior studies, and with additional input from informants at 12 schools, develop specific design guidelines that support inclusive education was approved for $76,200;
- **ARC-NJ – Personal Health Care Record:** the final specific outcome of this project will be a Personal Health Record (PHR) form, developed specifically for individuals with developmental disabilities was approved for $20,650;
- **Allies, Inc. – Crossroads CSA:** Crossroads is a community share agriculture (CSA) concept that will provide a productive, sustainable farm business model to employ individuals with developmental disabilities in Monmouth County was approved for $45,000;
- **NJCIE – Promoting Inclusion Indicators – Year 3:** purpose was to obtain feedback on how to improve the draft Quality Indicators (QI) Manual by piloting it in 5 districts. Year 3 will build on year 2 by disseminating the QI Manual statewide in a streamlined, user-friendly format was approved for $23,125;
- **Supportive Housing Network – Connections to Supportive Housing for P/w/DD:** SHA will construct a web site as a vehicle for information sharing on housing and supportive/generic services that will assist people with developmental disabilities find housing and support services suited to their unique needs in a location of their choice was approved for $39,780;
- **Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County – Building Capacity in Generic Services:** the goals of this project focus on connecting individuals with developmental disabilities to non-traditional service providers, not governmental agencies was approved for $45,000;
- **ARC-Hunterdon – Point Breeze Horticulture – Year 2:** currently there are 12 individuals (both adults and transition students) who are gainfully employed as a result of the project. They are also receiving appreciable training in all aspects of the horticulture field as well as related areas such as retail sales, etc was approved for $78,740;
- **SPAN – Inclusive After School Program in Underserved Communities:** despite benefits of after school, underserved immigrant youth with developmental disabilities in NJ face difficulty in accessing after-school programs. 3 multi-site after school programs in Paterson, an area with significant numbers of underserved was approved for $60,000, and;
- **ARC-Hudson – Outreach Project:** the ultimate outcome of the Outreach is to build capacity within existing, local community organizations and support groups to provide information was approved for $34,660.

OTHER

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is in the process of partnering with the Division of Disability Services (DDS) to help with call referrals. DDS will be setting up a call center and will not be taking on case management. The Division has recently issued an alert on H1N1 Flu Virus and information can be found at the following webpage: www.state.nj.us/humanswervices/ddd/alerts.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has been conducting workshops titled "Medicaid 101". Good feedback is resulting from this throughout the State. Beginning with Morris County, a Family Planning Forum will be held on June 3rd to introduce families to providers. This will be held state wide. Substantial changes will be made due to staff retiring and not being able to hire. The Waiting List letter will be distributed again.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

Chris Miller, Council member, mentioned what he learned while attending the TA Conference in Virginia and suggested the internet "Facebook" as a way of recruiting new members.

ADJOURNED – 2:05 p.m.
Upon motion, seconded and carried.

ATTENDANCE:

Self Advocates, Family Members

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair
Todd Emmons
Mary Kay Weber
Myrta Rosa
Purnima Hernandez
David Tag
Larry Jones, absent
Ellie Byra
Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez, absent
Leah Ziskin
Christopher Miller
Andrew McGeady
Russell Fried
Walter Fernandez,
Gary Rubin, excused
Robin Sims
Hazeline Pilgrim

Guests

Larry Quinlan
Richard Quinlan
Lowell Arye
Steve Fittante, Middlesex Cty DOT
Heather Smith-Bermudez
Barbara Small
Alan Guenther, Public Advo. Office
Cindy Bartman
Timothy Piso

DD Act Agencies Representatives

Michael Knox, Ph.D., Deputy Director, The Boggs Center
Joseph Young, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

Government Agencies

William Ditto, Director, Division of Disability Services
Brian Fitzgibbons, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Kenneth Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Pauline Lisciotto, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

Public Member

Frank Caragher, The Arc of Union County

Council Staff

Dr. Alison M. Lozano, Executive Director
Doug McGruther, Deputy Director
Gail Furrer
Jacinta Williams
Sharian Mackins-Gist
Dennie Todd
Dennis Rizzo
Frank Latham
Barbara Lee
Sue Gottesman